

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/986,393	SUZUKI, YASUKO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	RICARDO L OSORIO	2673	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 11-22-2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 7,8,10,11 and 14.
3. The drawings filed on 11-8-2001 & 5-28-2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 01052005.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Olga V. Merkoulova on 1-5-2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

7 (Currently Amended). A method for inputting function, commands or number or character while only watching a display and without seeing keys to an apparatus having a display, one or more function keys and a limited number of information data input keys, wherein all of said function keys and all of information data input keys can work in a pressure-sensitive mode, said method comprising the steps of:

sensing an operation of said one or more function keys and information data input keys in order to display one of a function-selecting scene, a number-inputting scene or a character-inputting scene on said display;

displaying said function-selecting scene comprising a plurality of function items corresponding to said function-selecting keys in response to touching one of said function-selecting keys;

selecting a desired function by shifting a cursor to an item corresponding to the touched-function-selecting key;

displaying successively functions assigned to the touched function-

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selecting key by continuously touching ~~one of said~~ the touched function-selecting keys;

selecting definitely the item specified by the cursor by pressing the touched function-selecting key with a pressure exceeding a predetermined pressure;

displaying said number-inputting scene in response to touching one of said ~~function-selecting~~ keys information data input keys;

selecting definitely a desired number by pressing said touched information data key with a pressure exceeding a predetermined pressure;

displaying said character-inputting scene in response to touching one of said information data input keys;

displaying successively characters assigned to the touched information data input keys by continuously touching ~~one of said~~ the touched information data input keys;

selecting definitely a desired character by pressing said touched information data input key with a pressure exceeding a predetermined pressure during said successive displaying of characters assigned to the ~~one of~~ continuously touched information data input keys; and

displaying the definitely selected definitely function, number or character on the display.

11 (Currently Amended). An apparatus for inputting function commands or number or character while only watching a display and without seeing keys, said apparatus comprising:

a plurality of function-selecting keys for selecting a desired function out of a plurality of functions which can work in a pressure-sensitive mode when at least one of said ~~information data input~~ function-selecting keys has been touched by a user;

a plurality of information data input keys for inputting numbers and characters which can work in a pressure-sensitive mode when at least one of said information data input keys has been touched by a user;

a display responsive to operation of said function-selecting keys and said information data input keys by operating in three scenes:

a function-selecting scene, wherein a selection of a desired function is performed by shifting a cursor to an item corresponding to a touched function-selecting key and selecting said function definitely by pressing said touched function-selecting selection key with a pressure exceeding a predetermined pressure;

a number-selecting scene, wherein one of said information data input keys is touched and an assigned number is displayed on said display and wherein for definite selection the said touched information-data input key is pressed with a pressure exceeding the predetermined pressure when the desired number is displayed on said display;

a character-selecting scene, wherein one of said information data input keys is continuously touched for displaying successively and automatically a plurality of characters assigned to the touched information data input key one by one at a predetermined interval and selecting definitely a desired character by pressing said touched information data input key with a pressure exceeding the predetermined

pressure during said successive displaying of characters assigned to the continuously touched information data input key.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 7, 8, 10, 11 and 14 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 7, 8, 10, 11 and 14 are allowable since, as amended by applicant on 11-22-2004, and as amended by examiner (see above), certain key features of the claimed invention are not taught or fairly suggested by the prior art. In claims 7 and 11, "selecting definitely a desired character by pressing said touched information data input key with a pressure exceeding a predetermined pressure during said successive displaying of characters assigned to the continuously touched information data input key". The closest prior art, Brisebois et al. (6,369,803) teaches of an active edge input device being pressed harder than a predetermined pressure, however, either singularly or in combination, fails to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ricardo L. Osorio whose telephone number is 703 305-2248. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:00 A.M. to 5:30

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P.M. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala whose telephone number is 703 305-4938.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

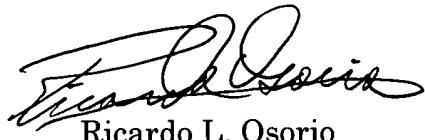
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

703 872-9306 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ricardo L. Osorio
Examiner
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RLO
January 5, 2005